

John Knox Presbyterian Church
October 18, 2026



"Whose head is this, and whose title?"

Matthew 22: 15-22

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"Prelude from English Suite in G Minor" J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

The peace of Christ be with you! And also with you.

*** Call to Worship**

*Loving God, as the colors in the trees sing your praise,
the goodness of your Holy Spirit in us shows forth your glory.
Transform us that we may glow with the beauty of your love.
Be present in us, that we may be present for one another.
Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by your grace.*

*** Hymn**

"For the Beauty of the Earth" #14

*** Call to Confession**

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

**Almighty God, we confess that we have not
been the faithful disciples you call us to be.
We have not remembered who we are.
We are distracted by glittering gold.
We are mesmerized by fame and fortune.
We turn a blind eye to systems that
perpetuate injustice.
We fail to hear the cries for mercy of those
who bear unfair burdens.
We close our hearts and imagine empathy
to be weakness.**

** = Standing as able Italics = Leader Bold = People*

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pianist: Melissa Terrall

Liturgist: Vallory Bunday

Music Director: Anna Robinson

Bulletin image: Roman Coin of Caesar Augustus. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57565>

You are invited to a Fall Fellowship meal in the social hall after worship, with entertainment guided by a talented member of our congregational family.

Church and Community Life

AFTER WORSHIP TODAY, we will enjoy the Fall Fellowship meal after worship with entertainment of some kind – you get to wonder and worry about what kind! Seriously, we’ll have good food and a lot of fun. And, we’ll celebrate October birthdays, too!

MELISSA'S FACULTY PIANO CONCERT

Friday, October 23, 7:30pm

Bauman Auditorium at George Fox University

1009 E North St, Newberg, OR 97132

A piano recital by Melissa Terrall featuring works
by Mexican and European composers as well as
original hymn arrangements

Free event - no ticket necessary!

CHRIST JAR OFFERING today benefits Congregations Helping People, a privately-funded, nonprofit organization supported by 12 Salem and Keizer churches to help meet the emergency needs of our neighbors as monthly funds are available. On third Sundays, we gather your coins, paper money, and checks to support this mission. If you have questions about this mission or how you can help, please contact Sheila, who is a member of the CHP Board of Directors.

SAVE the DATE! December 19 is the all-church Christmas Party, from noon – 4 pm.

Looking Ahead

Oct. 23-24 Cascades Presbytery meeting - North Bend, OR

Oct. 25 10:30 Worship – Reformation Sunday

Nov. 1 10:30 Worship with Holy Communion

Rev. Steven Hammond

Nov. 8 10:30 Worship

Receive and dedicate pledges

JKPC October Birthdays

Oct. 1: Cariana H.

Oct. 24: Shirley B.

Oct. 14: Rosemary W.

(103!!)

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10

We are in the Season of Stewardship, when we pay particular attention to how we steward the gifts we have been given. At John Knox, this is the season where we talk about budgets and pledges, but at the same time, we talk about how we use our time and our skills to spread the good news of God's love.

Stewardship is a part of everything we do throughout all the seasons of the church year. It is not just an exercise that helps us put together a working budget for the coming year. At its best, stewardship is a spiritual discipline and a way of living that helps us manage what God has entrusted to us and teach others the true joy of giving as a response to God's generosity. We are called to be good stewards of all that we have: stewards of time, gifts, resources, relationships, ministry, the knowledge of God, the people in our community of faith, and the mysteries of God.

Stewardship encompasses much more than money. This is a chance to focus on the ministries that God is calling us to participate in. We also look at how we can best support those ministries and the church that helps us hear God's call.

Over the next three weeks, we'll explore various ways of looking at and participating in the stewardship of all we have been given. We'll receive and dedicate your financial commitments for 2027 on November 8 and begin to formulate a budget to use those gifts in the best way possible.



So many of us were enjoying a beautiful and warm Pacific Northwest fall day when the news broke of the tragedy in Bend on Thursday. Our collective hearts sank as we watched the details emerge from Silver Rail Elementary School. Here at Presbytery, phone calls and text messages started pouring in from around the region and across the country with words of prayer and consolation as we attempted to connect with our leaders in the area. As a presbytery, we share minister members and lay leaders in the Bend/Redmond/Sunriver region who not only serve in congregations, but also as staff at St. Charles Medical Center, which heroically moved into triage mode to both save lives and console others.

Pastor Steven Koski is the Lead Pastor from First Presbyterian Church of Bend, and on Friday he sent out these words and prayer for both his congregation and for the wider community. We want to share those words with you as well and ask that we continue to lift up our dear friends and siblings in the Bend region to be touched and filled by the Spirit in the midst of their broken hearts.

Dear friends,

Our hearts are heavy with the news from Silver Rail. Some losses leave a wound that does not close, and no words can reach that place. We will not try to rush past it. This Sunday, as we

gather for worship, we will hold space for our shared grief, our questions, and our love for the families who are hurting. Moments like this are exactly when we need one another, so please come, just as you are, and let us be community together.

A Prayer for Silver Rail

God of all comfort,

We come to you with broken hearts,
and we know they will stay broken.

Three children of our community are gone,
children who went to school expecting a normal day,
whose names were spoken by teachers this week,
whose backpacks still hang by doors at home.
There are no words that can reach the place where this
grief lives, so we bring you our silence and our tears.

We hold before you the families whose lives have been
torn open and changed forever.

Be near to the parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends
in the hours when the house is too quiet and the questions are too loud.
Hold what they cannot carry.

We pray for the children of Silver Rail who saw
what no child should see,
for teachers and staff who protected and comforted them,
for first responders who ran toward danger,
and for the doctors, nurses, and counselors
now tending wounds of body and spirit.
Give them strength, rest, and people to lean on.

We confess that we are angry and afraid.
We do not understand how this keeps happening,
and we will not pretend it is acceptable.
Let our grief not harden into despair.
Let it move us toward one another and toward
the work of making our children safe.

Jesus, you took the children in your arms and blessed them.
We trust that these little ones are held in that same embrace,
and we ask you to hold us too, because we are not okay.

Help us be the church this week and in the weeks to come
showing up for one another grieving with those who grieve
without hurrying toward comfort.
Let no one in our community feel alone in this.

And in our grief, help us trust what we cannot yet feel:
that nothing in all creation, not death, not violence,
not the deepest sorrow, can separate us

or these children from your love in Christ Jesus.
Death and tragedy will not have the last word.

Love will.

Hold us in that promise until we can hold it ourselves.
In the name of Christ, whose love is stronger than death,
Amen.

With you in grief and in hope,

Pastor Steven

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*This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people.
We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.*

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks.

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Love God, in whose image you are made.

Love others as you love yourself.

Respect the God-given dignity of all persons.

Strive for the good of all, for the common good.

Apply these values to how you live every day;

to what agencies or causes you support;

to what policies you advocate for;

to how you vote.

Dr. Cynthia Campbell, author and PC(USA) pastor